

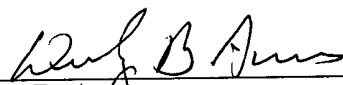
II. REMARKS

Attached on separate sheets are the claims as amended and a marked-up set of the amended claims. Applicant believes that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. If a telephone call would further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (619) 234-6655.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 50-0872**. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 15, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark-up of Amended Claims

19. (Amended) The method of [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 15 or 18], wherein the genotype VDR-BBff is associated with a significant predisposition to breast cancer.

21. (New) The assay of claim 16, wherein the genotype VDR-BBff is associated with a significant predisposition to breast cancer.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the genotype VDR-BBff is associated with a significant predisposition to breast cancer.

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